

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-0862V

Filed: August 6, 2018

UNPUBLISHED

NICOLE CARION,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder
Injury Related to Vaccine
Administration (SIRVA)

Leah VaSahnja Durant, Law Offices of Leah V. Durant, PLLC, Washington, DC, for petitioner.

Sarah Christina Duncan, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On June 26, 2017, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) caused in fact by the influenza vaccine she received on September 25, 2016. Petition at ¶¶ 1, 8. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On March 9, 2018, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. On August 6, 2018, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$64,294.70, representing \$62,500.00 for actual and projected pain and suffering (with the award for projected pain and suffering reduced to net present value), and \$1,794.70 for past

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

unreimbursable expenses. Proffer at 1-2. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards petitioner a lump sum payment of \$64,294.70, representing \$62,500.00 for actual and projected pain and suffering and \$1,794.70 for past unreimbursable expenses in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Nicole Carion.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey
Nora Beth Dorsey
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

B. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents Nicole Carion's expenditure of past unreimbursable expenses related to her vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of \$1,794.70, as provided under the Vaccine Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B). Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to Nicole Carion should be made through a lump sum payment as described below and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following¹: a lump sum payment of \$64,294.70, representing compensation for pain and suffering (\$62,500.00), and past unreimbursable expenses (\$1,794.70), in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Nicole Carion.

III. Summary of Recommended Payments Following Judgment

Lump sum payable to petitioner, Nicole Carion:	\$64,294.70
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Respectfully submitted,

CHAD A. READLER
Acting Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO
Acting Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

CATHARINE E. REEVES
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

¹ Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future lost earnings and future pain and suffering.

ALEXIS B. BABCOCK
Assistant Director
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s/ Sarah C. Duncan
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